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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Geva Theatre Center announces  
*The Real James Bond ... Was Dominican*  
presented on Zoom, live from the Wilson Stage**

Written and performed by **Christopher Rivas**  
Developed and directed by **Daniel Banks**

**May 14 – 29, 2021**

***ESL Federal Credit Union Sponsors Geva's 48<sup>th</sup> Season with  
Honorary Season Producer Dr. Dawn Lipson***

**Rochester, N.Y., April 16, 2021** – Geva Theatre Center is pleased to announce its upcoming production of ***The Real James Bond ... Was Dominican***, to be performed live in real time via Zoom. Written and performed by **Christopher Rivas**, this COVID-era theatrical innovation features extensive audience interaction, complete with props that will be made available to all interested ticketholders.

What happens when a James Bond-obsessed Dominican boy in Queens (who won't go anywhere without his nerf gun), finds out that the real James Bond was Dominican?

This is a true story about Porfirio Rubirosa, Ian Fleming's primary inspiration for Bond, and a young Dominican actor-to-be whose discovery of "Rubi" shakes his very foundation. Set to a live percussion score, ***The Real James Bond ... Was Dominican*** is a young man's guide to love, sex, color, code-switching, white-washing, success, fake-it-till-you-make-it, and the roller coaster of finding one's true self.

"I am so excited to bring *The Real James Bond ... Was Dominican* to Geva and the Rochester community. The show is as timely, important, alive and needed now as ever. We aren't just filming the stage version, we're making something innovative and original for this medium and for Geva's

— more —

audience, and I can't wait to see what they think. It's gonna be fun!" said writer and performer Christopher Rivas.

"We are very excited to take the next step toward live, in-person performances with this innovative production from the Wilson Stage in May," said Mark Cuddy, Geva's Artistic Director. "Audiences will attend a live Geva event once again, only from their homes. Christopher Rivas's performance will jump out from the screen and be the next best thing to being in a Geva seat!"

The artistic team includes Christopher Rivas (writer and performer), Daniel Banks (developer and director), Wilson R. Torres (original score and percussion), ViDCo (livestream video designers) Laura Bustillos Jáquez (live camera operator and assistant director), Alexandra Kelly Colburn and Kate Freer (original production designers), and Katelan Braymer (production stage manager).

This production, presented live from the Wilson Stage on Zoom, is included as part of Geva's 2020-2021 season. Access for the general public is now on sale for \$30. There are 20 performances scheduled for May 14 – 29, 2021. Tickets may be purchased at [gevatheatre.org](http://gevatheatre.org). Zoom links will be emailed to ticketholders the day of their scheduled performance. Instructions for picking up audience props (included with purchase) will be announced soon.

Each performance of *The Real James Bond ... Was Dominican* will be performed on Zoom, live from the Wilson Stage. A video recording will not be made available.

## Further Updates Regarding Geva's 2020-2021 Season

*All plays, artists, and schedules are subject to change.*

**AUGUST 3 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**

### *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash* *An outdoor jam celebrating the legend of Johnny Cash*

Directed by Mark Cuddy

Created by Richard Maltby, Jr.

Conceived by William Meade

Slated for August in an outdoor venue, audiences are invited to take a crowd-pleasing ride through Johnny Cash's gritty life story with this rowdy jukebox musical.

A multi-talented cast pays homage to the legendary Man in Black with more than two dozen Cash classics, including "I Walk the Line," "Folsom Prison Blues," "I've Been Everywhere," and, of course, "Ring of Fire."

Look for details, venue location, on-sale dates, and safety precautions being put in place, as soon as they become available.

SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 24, 2021

## *Vietgone*

***A rock & romance-fueled motorcycle adventure set in 1975***

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Pirronne Yousefzadeh

Original Music by Shane Rettig

**It's 1975. Saigon has fallen. He lost his wife. She lost her fiancé. Now in a new land of Harleys, hot dogs and "howdy!" they just might find each other.**

**This modern boy-meets-girl story takes audiences on a hilariously rip-roaring adventure across 1970s America with a fiery soundtrack, serving up hip-hop, sass and comic-book quick cuts.**

Presented on the Wilson Stage, this will be Geva's first opportunity to welcome guests back into the theatre since March 2020.

RETURNING IN LATE 2021

## *A Christmas Carol*

***Rochester's favorite holiday tradition is back!***

Details will be announced as they become available.

All performances will be conducted in accordance with public health guidelines, including distanced seating, masking, modified entry procedures, and enhanced cleaning protocols, as required.

Since Geva's 2014-2015 Season, **ESL Federal Credit Union** has sponsored the Wilson Stage Series, along with the Fielding Stage Series in recent years. In its 100<sup>th</sup> year, ESL continues its commitment as the Presenting Sponsor for the Geva Theatre Center 2020-2021 Season. **Dr. Dawn Lipson** serves as Honorary Season Producer.

## **About Geva Theatre Center**

**Geva Theatre Center** is a nonprofit, professional theatre company in downtown Rochester, New York, offering world-class productions and extensive additional programming. Founded in 1972, Geva is the most well-attended regional theatre in New York State with one of the 25 largest subscription bases among regional theatres in the country. Geva serves as many as 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 20,000 students.

Geva's 517-seat Wilson Stage and 180-seat Fielding Stage each offer a wide-ranging collection of drama, comedy and musical theatre, from classics to world premieres. The company also offers a broad slate of educational, outreach and literary programming to enrich audiences, students and artists of all ages and disciplines. Since 1995, Geva has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.

Geva Theatre Center sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the O-non-dowa-gah, or "the people of the Great Hill." In English, they are known as the Seneca people, "the keeper of the western door." They have stewarded this land through generations, and Geva pays respect and gives thanks to their elders, past and present.

**Find out more about Geva Theatre Center** at [GevaTheatre.org](http://GevaTheatre.org) or by connecting with us on social media. Facebook: [facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter](https://facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter), Twitter: [@gevatheatre](https://twitter.com/gevatheatre), Instagram: [@gevatheatre](https://instagram.com/gevatheatre), LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center](https://linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center).

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